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1963/08/25

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TELECON
BALL
FORRESTAL-WHITE HOUSE
8/25/63 - 11:45 am

Ball I take it Mac isn't back yet?

Forrestal No, Mac won't be back until Tuesday and we can't reach him.

Ball Well, that's all right. I'm just talking to Averell and Roger, and we're going ahead and confirming that modification that Lodge has recommended.

Forrestal What's the vague nature of it, George, I can't seem to get the damn cable over here.

Ball What it amounts to is that they're going to talk directly to the generals and not talk to Diem at all.

Forrestal Ok, fine.

Ball I don't see how we can avoid telling them to go along with that.

Forrestal Absolutely not. They've got to be the judges of how to deal with it.

Ball Now, as far as the boss is concerned, I don't think this has to be checked out with him.

Forrestal No, no.

Ball He seemed to be pretty well in acoord with the whole thing last night.

Forrestal Yes. If you want me to, I have to talk to him when he gets out of church anyway on two other matters.

Ball All right, tell him we've gone ahead and moved on it and we're moving fast.

Forrestal Moved--wonderful.

Ball Tell him also that we have--on distribution of cables we're working it out here so that there's only about three of us in this Department that know anything about it; that the cables are being sent personally to Gilpatric, Taylor and Dick Helms with suggestion

Ball — to them that they handle any distribution but hold it strictly to a need-to-know basis.

Forrestal — Excellent.

Ball — And the White House is the only other place that is getting these, so that I hope we can keep it down.

Forrestal — Fine.

Ball — Now, wait a minute, Averell wants to speak to you.

Harriman — I have asked them to send over to you the message that came through CIA channels. That isn't there yet?

Forrestal — No, but they're tracking it down now.

Harriman — Well, I told them to send it over, and the other thing is that you'll send that on, I imagine.

Forrestal — Yes, I'll send it on with a note. Thanks a lot.

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